On page 1, immediately below the paragraph regarding Related Applications, please insert,

--**Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research**

This work was supported by grants AR41135 and HL41135 awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The United States government may have certain rights to the invention.--

In the Claims

Pending claims 1-15 are reiterated for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. A nucleic acid construct for suppressing gene expression comprising:
   a 5' stem loop structure;
   an antisense nucleic acid; and
   a 3' stem loop structure.

2. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the stem loop structures are unmodified U snRNA structures.

3. The nucleic acid construct of claim 2, wherein the U snRNA is U1.

4. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, further comprising a promoter.

5. The nucleic acid construct of claim 4, wherein the promoter is a U1 snRNA promoter.

6. The nucleic acid construct of claim 4, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

7. The nucleic acid construct of claim 4, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

8. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, further comprising a ribozyme nucleic acid.

9. The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein the ribozyme nucleic acid is located between the 5' and 3' stem loop structures.

10. The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein the ribozyme nucleic acid is a hammerhead-type ribozyme.

11. The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, wherein a consensus sequence for ribozyme cleavage in a target nucleic acid is 5'-GUC-3' or 5'-GUA-3'.

12. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the antisense nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of rent-1, HPV E6, HIV, hyaluronic acid synthase, and fibrillin.

13. A method for suppression of gene expression comprising administering to a cell a suppressive-effective amount of the nucleic acid construct of claim 1, whereby expression of the gene is suppressed.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the administering is *ex vivo*.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising administering a modified nucleic acid encoding a wild-type polypeptide corresponding to the gene product of the gene being suppressed, wherein the modified nucleic acid is resistant to ribozyme cleavage and/or antisense inhibition.